

**TEACHING LITERACY IN TENNESSEE:
UNIT STARTER STUDENT ACTIVITY PACKET
GRADE 1 ELA UNIT CONNECTED TO
SOCIAL STUDIES (CHANGE)**

My Tennessee Journal: Past and Present

Belongs to:_____

Daily Task 1:

You are a first grade student writing to another first grade student who lives in another state and does not have this text in his/her classroom. Draw and write an informational piece describing how the neighborhood in the book *Home* changed from beginning to end.

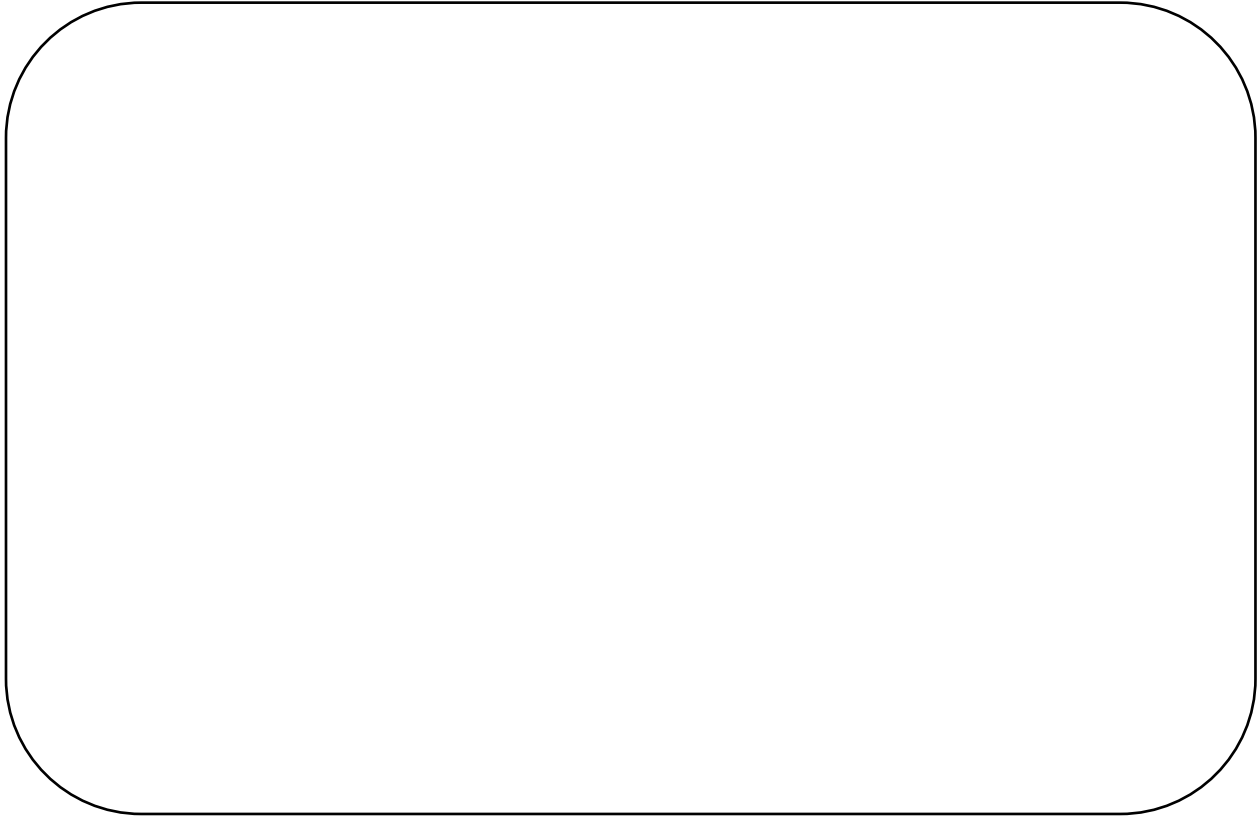
Your writing should:

- introduce your topic;
- develop the topic with facts and details; and
- provide some sense of closure.

[illegible]

Daily Task 1:

Draw Tracy's neighborhood both in the beginning of the story and then in the end of the story to show changes over time.

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing Tracy's neighborhood at the beginning of the story.A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing Tracy's neighborhood at the end of the story to show changes over time.

Daily Task 2:

Arrange the events from your life in chronological order as a timeline. You may choose to present your timeline vertically, horizontally, or as a picture timeline. Be prepared to present your timeline to the class once it is complete.

Your timeline should:

- begin when you were born;
- include five events in chronological order; and
- include pictures and labels for each event.

Timeline of _____'s Life

A horizontal timeline template. It consists of a horizontal line with an arrow pointing to the right. Above the line, there are five empty rectangular boxes for pictures. Below the line, there are five empty rectangular boxes for labels. Each picture box is positioned directly above a label box, and a small black dot is placed on the timeline line between each pair of boxes.

Daily Task 3:

Pretend the oak tree in *As an Oak Tree Grows* was in your town. In order to share with people attending an upcoming town festival, write a narrative from the tree's point of view recounting changes in your town over time, including some details to describe changes in transportation, communication, technology, and homes.

Your writing should:

- introduce your topic;
- be written from the point of view of an oak tree;
- include some details to describe changes in transportation, communication, technology, and homes;
- use time order words to signal event order;
- use vocabulary from our text; and
- provide some sense of closure which includes a statement about how these changes have affected people's lifestyles today.

[illegible]

Daily Task 4:

Write a response to the following question using information from the text, as well as the class anchor chart. What did the author mean when he wrote, “The oak tree grew slowly and steadily while all around it life sped by.”?

Your writing should:

- introduce your topic;
- include some details to describe changes in the tree's life cycle compared to the town's growth;
- use important information from the text to write your response;
- use vocabulary from our text; and
- provide some sense of closure.

[illegible]

Daily Task 5:

Write a letter to Davy Crockett describing how life in Tennessee today is different from life when he was living in the 1800's using what you have learned from the texts we have read so far in this unit.

Your writing should:

- use key details from the text to identify how life in Tennessee is different now;
- include information from *A Picture Book of Davy Crockett*, *As an Oak Tree Grows*, and/or *Transportation Then and Now* to support what has caused these changes in two or more of the following areas: technology, homes, schools or food; and
- use vocabulary from our text.

Dear Davy,

Your friend,

Daily Task 6:

Pretend that you are Arizona and you have just retired from teaching. As you are thinking back over all the events of your life, you decide to write down some thoughts in your journal. Your journal entry explains how some things about you have changed since you were a child, and how some things about you have stayed the same.

Your writing should:

- be a journal entry written from Arizona's point of view; and
- include key details from the text to describe at least one way Arizona grew and changed since she was a child and one way Arizona has stayed the same.

My journal entry from the day I retired from teaching:

Date: _____

Daily Task 7:

Using the graphic organizer, compare and contrast similarities and differences between schools in the past and those in the present. On the left hand side, record numbered facts and details about schools in the past, using information from *Comparing Past and Present: Going to School*, and *My Great-Aunt Arizona*. On the right hand side, record corresponding numbered facts and details about schools in the present using information from *Comparing Past and Present: Going to School* and your own personal experience. At the bottom of the diagram, record similarities between schools in the past and present.

Your writing should:

- include some facts and details to describe how schools in the past and present are different;
- include some facts and details to describe how schools in the past and present are similar; and
- use vocabulary from our texts to describe changes in schools from the past to the present.

Daily Task 7:

<u>Schools in the Past</u>	<u>Schools in the Present</u>
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
<u>Similarities</u>	
1.	
2.	
3.	

Daily Task 8:

Cynthia Rylant wrote *When I Was Young in the Mountains* to share her memories of staying with her grandparents in the mountains when she was a little girl. The way people live, work, and play in the mountains of Tennessee has changed in many ways since Ms. Rylant was young. If you had a choice, would you rather spend time in the mountains a long time ago or today? Write a letter to Ms. Rylant telling her your opinion.

Your letter to Cynthia Rylant should:

- state your opinion;
- use vocabulary from the text;
- give reasons for your opinion that include details gathered from the text and personal experiences about how people lived, worked, and played in the past and/or today; and
- provide a sense of closure.

Dear Ms. Rylant,

Sincerely,

Daily Task 9:

Based on the poem we have read and the compare and contrast anchor chart that we have created, you will create two descriptive webs that describe the summer experiences of the girl in the poem compared to your summer experiences in present times. In addition, you will add an illustration for both. Be prepared to have a conversation with a partner where you will share your descriptive webs and illustrations.

Your product should include:

- important details from the poem, including words and pictures that describe what the girl sees, hears, tastes, and feels;
- details from your own summer experiences that include words and pictures that describe what you see, hear, taste, and feel;
- a comparison and contrast of the two summer experiences in the past to today's times showing similarities and differences; and
- a short list from your partner conversation describing three similarities and/or differences in summers today and in the past.

Daily Task 9 Descriptive Webs and Illustrations:

Summer from the poem "Knoxville, Tennessee":

My summer:

Daily Task 9 Partner Discussion:

My Sticky Note

-
-
-

Questions to ask your partner:

How is your summer different than the summer in the poem in 1943?

How is your summer similar to the summer in the poem in 1943?

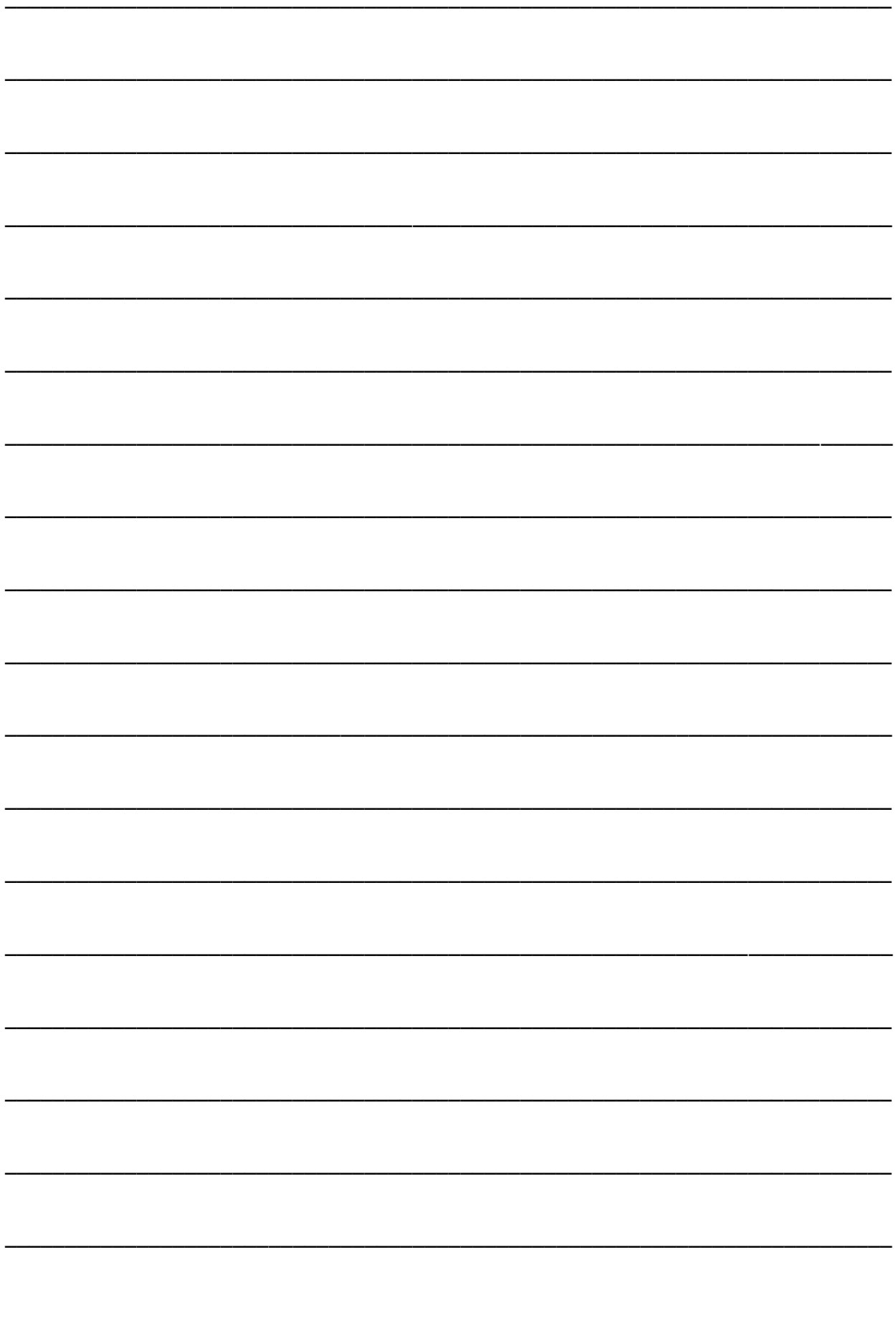
Daily Task 10:

Your local newspaper has asked you to write an opinion piece for the new children's section of the newspaper sharing what you believe has been the most useful change in communication over time, why it is the most useful change, and how it affects your life today.

Your writing should:

- introduce the topic;
- state an opinion;
- supply a reason for the opinion;
- tell how it effects your life today; and
- provide some sense of closure.

The Most Useful Change in Communication



Daily Task 11:

Write an informative piece to fellow junior historians about how Elvis' life would have been different if he grew up in the 1800's. How would the lack of communication have changed his life?

Your writing should:

- introduce your topic;
- supply some facts and examples about the topic;
- provide some sense of closure; and
- include vocabulary from our text.

If Elvis Had Lived in the 1800's

[illegible]

Daily Task 12:

You just found out your family is taking a trip to Dollywood. You are very excited because you have never been to Dollywood and you have been learning about Dolly Parton's life in school. Write a letter to your parents telling them what you have learned about the life of Dolly Parton. Make sure to include why she is important to Tennessee.

In your writing, be sure to:

- recount some events in Dolly's life;
- use vocabulary from our texts; and
- provide some sense of closure by telling the impact that Dolly's life has on Tennessee.

Dear Mom and Dad,

Sincerely,

Daily Task 13:

As a junior historian, you have learned some important facts about Davy Crockett, Elvis Presley, and Dolly Parton. Using your graphic organizer, draw a picture and write a sentence to show one significant detail for the childhoods of Davy Crockett, Elvis, and Dolly Parton.

Your writing and drawing should:

- include details about their childhood, including homes, activities, and clothing and the date of their life; and
- include a summative sentence(s) telling how their childhoods are different and/or similar.

Davy Crockett 1786-1836	Elvis Presley 1935-1977	Dolly Parton 1946-present
How are these famous Tennessean's childhoods the same and/or different?		

End-of-Unit Task

Instructions:

You are a time traveler. You rode in a time machine to Tennessee in the early 1800's, then to the 1940's, back to today, and then into the future. Record four journal entries documenting your observations of life during each time period.

In your journal entries, be sure to include:

- details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings,
- forms of communication,
- modes of transportation,
- types of clothing, and
- provide some sense of closure.

Make sure to include how things, including communication, transportation, and clothing, are similar and different in each time period. Also include words and phrases related to chronology and time, including past, present, and future.

Graphic organizer to organize your thoughts for writing:

	Communication	Transportation	Clothing	Actions, Thoughts, or Feelings
1800				
1940				
20__				
Future				

Back in Time!

From Past to Present in Tennessee



A Travel Journal by _____

1800

1940

Present

Future
